

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 COME-00 CU-02 BIB-01 /088 W  
-----170420Z 095744 /17

R 161440Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5055  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMSMBASSY MOSCOW 9553  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6310

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GE  
SUBJ: GDR REJECTS HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM

1. IN REMARKS BEFORE A VOLKSKAMMER SESSION IN EAST  
BERLIN JUNE 16, POLITBURO MEMBERS HARRY TISCH AND GUENTER  
MITTAGE LEAPED TO THE OFFENSIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, REFERRING  
TO A "CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER" BEING WAGED AGAINST SOCIALIST  
COUNTRIES; AND CALLING WESTERN ASSERTIONS IN RESPECT TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS AN EFFORT AT IDEOLOGICAL DIVERSION WHICH  
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INSULTS THE WORKERS OF THE GDR AND UNDERMINES DETENTE.  
TISCH MADE CLEAR THAT HIS REFERENCE WAS TO THE UNITED  
STATES, REFERRING AT ONE POINT TO A STATEMENT OF FORMER  
SECRETARY KISSINGER; AND SAYING THAT THE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND  
JUNE 9 ARTICLE REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
THE UNITED STATES. REMARKS STOPPED SHORT, HOWEVER, OF  
MENTIONING THE PRESIDENT BY NAME. TIME AFTER TIME,

VARIOUS SPEAKERS CALLED THE RIGHT TO A JOB THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT, GUARANTEED IN THE GDR, AND ABSENT IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. AT SEVERAL POINTS, SPEAKERS REFERRED TO GDR ADHERANCE TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS SUPPORTIVE OF THE VIEW THAT THE RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

2. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ALSO CAME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM, WITH SPEAKERS MAKING MUCH OF UNEMPLOYMET, INFLATION, AND THE ALLEGED ABSENCE OF A LABOR CODE IN WEST GERMANY. A RECENT JUDGEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED BY A WEST GERMAN COURT THAT THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED ADDITIONAL GRIST FOR THE EAST GERMANS' MILL.

3. INTERSPERSED AMONG THE SPIRITED REJECTIONS OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS ASSERTIONS AND ATTACKS ON "THE IMPERIALIST GERMANY", SPEAKERS MANAGED TO INSERT DISCUSSION OF THE NEW LABOR CODE AND AN ACCOMPANYING "ENABLING LAW", WHICH WILL, INTER ALIA, BRING WORKERS IN AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES UNDER THE LABOR CODE.

4. COMMENT: THE HUMAN RIGHTS TONE WAS DISTINCTLY SHARP. PROBALLY TRIGGERED BY THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FASCELL COMMISSION AND POSSIBLY REFLECTING A GDR NEED TO STAY IN STEP WITH THE SOVIETS, THE GLOVES HAVE COME OFF. THE GDR SEEMS TO BE SAYING THAT IF THE US WANTS A SLANGING MATCH IN BELGRADE, EAST GERMANY IS PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE. POLANSKY  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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